

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of executing an event function in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

associating each of a plurality of [[a]] functions of an interactive television system with a room identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home [[an]] environment of the interactive television system;

displaying an interactive menu displaying the plurality of room identifiers;

in response to a selection of a particular room identifier, allowing a user to select the function associated with the particular room identifier; and

in response to a selection of the function being selected, enabling an event associated with executing the function within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier location.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
requiring verification input if the particular room identifier location is a
restricted room identifier location.
6. (canceled)
7. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
customizing a feature in one of the functions.
8. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state.
9. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein additional video is displayed with
a representation of the feature or function.
10. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein additional text is displayed with a
representation of the feature or function.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
creating a personal room function associated with a restricted-access
room identifier location in the home environment of the interactive television system.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
activating at least one feature associated with the personal room
function.
13. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:
associate a function with a particular room identifier, the particular room
identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home an environment of the
interactive television system;
provide an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers
including the particular room identifier;
In response to a selection of the particular room identifier, displaying an
option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier; and
in response to a selection of the function being selected, enable an
event associated with executing the function within the interactive television system
rather than the corresponding physical room.
14. (currently amended) An apparatus for executing ~~an event~~ function in an
interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:
means for associating a function with a particular room identifier, the
particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home an
environment of the interactive television system;

means for providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifier;

means for responding to a selection of the particular room identifier and displaying an option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier; and

communicatively coupled to the associating means, means for executing the function ~~enabling an event associated with the function~~, in response to a selection of the function ~~being selected~~, the function executing within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

15. (currently amended) A method of organizing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

displaying a function that is associated with a particular room identifier, the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home an environment of the interactive television system;

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifier;

in response to a selection of the particular room identifier, displaying an option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier; and

in response to a selection of the function ~~being selected~~, enabling an event associated with ~~executing the function within the interactive television system~~ rather than the corresponding physical room.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier location.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
requiring verification input if the particular room identifier location is a restricted room identifier location.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
customizing a feature in one of the functions.

22. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state.

23. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein additional video is displayed with a representation of the feature or function.

24. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein additional text is displayed with a representation of the feature or function.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
creating a personal function associated with a restricted-access room identifier ~~location~~ in the home ~~environment of the interactive television system~~.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
activating at least one feature associated with the personal function.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method of organizing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers,
the room identifiers corresponding to a physical room in a home;

in response to a selection of a room identifier, displaying selecting a
settings menu that includes with a plurality of functions at least one function
corresponding to a location in an environment of the interactive television system;

selecting one of the functions in the settings menu;

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier location, then requiring a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then activating the selected function ~~permitting a feature in the selected function to be~~ activated;

if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier location, then activating the selected function ~~permitting a feature in the selected function to be~~ activated; and

if the activated function feature is ~~[[a]]~~ customizable feature, then permitting input of a name for the activated function feature and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function feature,

wherein the activated function occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

30. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

provide an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers, the room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home;

in response to a selection of a room identifier, display select-a settings menu that includes with a plurality of functions at least one function corresponding to a location in an environment of the interactive television system;

select one of the functions in the settings menu;

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier location, then require a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then activate the selected function ~~permit a feature in the selected function to be activated;~~

if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier location, then activate the selected function ~~permit a feature in the selected function to be activated;~~ and

if the activated function feature is [[a]] customizable feature, then permit input of a name for the activated function feature and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function feature,

wherein the activated function occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

31. (currently amended) An apparatus for organizing information in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for providing an interactive menu to display a plurality of room identifiers, the room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home;

means for responding to a selection of a room identifier and displaying selecting a settings menu that includes with a plurality of functions corresponding to physical rooms at least one function corresponding to a location in an environment of the interactive television system;

communicatively coupled to the means for displaying selecting the settings menu, means for selecting one of the functions in the settings menu;

communicatively coupled to the means for selecting one of the functions, means for requiring a verification input if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier location and for activating the selected function ~~permitting a feature in the selected function to be activated~~ if the verification input is valid;

communicatively coupled to the means for selecting one of the functions, means for activating the selected function ~~permitting a feature in the selected function to be activated~~ if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier location; and

communicatively coupled to the means for permitting the function feature, means for permitting input of a name for the activated function feature and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function feature if the activated function feature is ~~[[a]] customizable feature~~,

wherein the activated function occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

32. (currently amended) A method of processing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions, the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home ~~associated locations in an environment of the interactive television system~~;

displaying each active function;

selecting one of the active functions;

if the selected active function is a personalized function corresponding to a personal room identifier location, then requiring a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function;

if the selected active function is not a personalized function, then displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function;
and

selecting at least one of the active features and executing the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room enabling an event associated with the selected active feature.

33. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

check a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions, the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home associated locations in an environment of the interactive television system;

display each active function;

select one of the active functions;

if the selected active function is a personalized function corresponding to a personal room identifier location, then require a verification input, and if the

verification input is valid, then display at least one active feature associated with the selected active function;

if the selected active function is not a personalized function, then display at least one active feature associated with the selected active function; and

select at least one of the active features and execute the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room enabling an event associated with the selected active feature.

34. (currently amended) An apparatus for processing information in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions, the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home associated locations in an environment of the interactive television system;

communicatively coupled to the checking means, means for displaying each active function;

communicatively coupled to the displaying means, means for selecting one of the active functions;

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for requiring a verification input if the selected active function is a personalized function corresponding to a personal room identifier location and for displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function if the verification input is valid;

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function if the selected active function is not a personalized function; and

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for selecting at least one of the active features and for executing the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room enabling an event associated with the selected active feature.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

a set top box communicatively coupled to the display device and capable to transmit television signals to a display device, the set top box including a user interface engine capable to display a function associated with a particular room identifier, the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home an environment of the interactive television system, the user interface engine further capable to display an interactive menu having a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifier and, in response to a selection of the particular room identifier, display an option to select the function;

the set top box further including a controller capable to execute the user interface engine and to execute the function enable an event in response to a selection of the function being selected, the executed function occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

36. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier location.

37. (original) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising: an application associated with the feature, the controller executing the application in response to a selection of the feature.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein selection of the feature provides information associated with the selected feature.

39. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the user interface engine is capable to check for a verification input if the selected function is associated with a restricted room identifier location.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the user interface engine is capable to set a feature in active state or inactive state.

41. (currently amended) An apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

a remote control device capable to transmit command signals;

a controller capable to execute a function in response to a selection of the function; and

a user interface engine executable by the controller in response to command signals from the remote control device to permit access to a function associated with a particular room identifier, the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room location in a home an environment of the interactive television system,

wherein the executed function occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing to a user of an interactive television system, a home-style user interface that is organized according to a plurality of rooms in a home ~~the user's surrounding locations~~, the apparatus comprising:

a set top box including a storage capable to store information associated with each of a plurality of features, each feature associated with a room identifier corresponding to one of the plurality of rooms locations, the set top box further capable to receive and interpret a command signal and capable to format a television screen layout from the interpreted command signal, the television screen layout including an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers and associated features, the set top box ~~[[and]]~~ capable to transmit the television screen layout, the set top box capable of executing a feature based on a received and interpreted

command signal indicative of a selected feature, the executed feature occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding room;

a television including a television screen, the television communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to receive the television screen layout from the set top box and capable to display the television screen layout on the television screen; and

a user input device communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to detect a user input and capable to convert the user input into the command signal and transmit the command signal to the set top box.

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the information associated with each feature includes indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive.

47. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box is further capable to update the indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive based upon the command signal received from the user input device.

48. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the information associated with each feature includes information about an executable application that is invoked when the feature is active and when the user selects the feature.

49. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box is further capable to update the information about an executable application based upon the command signal received from the user input device.

50. (canceled)

51. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box is further capable to update the room identifier [[name]] associated with the room location.

52. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box storage is further capable to store indicia of whether at least one of the plurality of room identifiers ~~locations~~ is password protected.

53. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box storage is further capable to store a password associated with one of the room identifiers ~~plurality of locations~~.

54. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box is further capable to provide user access to each of the plurality of features associated with

one of the room identifiers plurality of locations that is password protected, if the interpretation of the command signal received from the user input device results in a determination that the user has entered the password associated with the one of the room identifiers plurality of locations.

55. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the information associated with each of a plurality of features is stored in a settings table comprising a plurality of table entries, each table entry associated with one of the plurality of features and further associated with one of the room identifiers plurality of locations.

56. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein: the set top box is further capable to:

determine which of the plurality of features are active; and
format the television screen layout to include features of the plurality of features that are active.

57. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box is further capable to:

determine which features of the plurality of features are associated with one of the room identifiers plurality of locations;

determine which features of the plurality of features associated with [[the]] one of the room identifiers plurality of locations are active; and

format a television screen layout including those features associated with the one of the room identifiers ~~plurality of locations~~ that are also active.

58. (currently amended) A method of providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising:

displaying an interactive menu having a plurality of room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home;

in response to a selection of a room identifier, displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier ~~one of a plurality of the user's surrounding locations;~~

accepting user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature; and

invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

59. (currently amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

displaying indicia of each of the plurality of room identifiers ~~locations~~ that has at least one associated active feature; and

accepting user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of room identifiers ~~locations~~ that has at least one associated active feature; and wherein:

the displaying of the indicia of each of the plurality of active features comprises displaying each active feature associated with the selected one of the room identifiers locations.

60. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

display an interactive menu having a plurality of room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home;

in response to a selection of a room identifier, display at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier ~~one of a plurality of a interactive television system user's everyday surroundings;~~

accept user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature;

and

invoke an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

61. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 60 ~~[[61]]~~ wherein the machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions: further comprises instructions to:

display indicia of each of the plurality of room identifiers ~~locations~~ that has at least one associated active feature; and

accept user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of room identifiers ~~locations~~ that has at least one associated active feature; and

wherein the instruction to display of the plurality of active features comprises an instruction to display each active feature associated with the selected one of the room identifiers ~~locations~~.

62. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for displaying an interactive menu having a plurality of room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home;

means for displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier in response to a selection of a room identifier one of a plurality of the user's surrounding locations;

communicatively coupled to the display means, means for selecting one of the at least one active feature; and

communicatively coupled to the selection means, means for invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

63. (currently amended) A method of customizing a home-style user interface provided for a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising:

storing a status indicator for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home ~~of the user's surrounding locations~~, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

displaying setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

selecting the setup indicia associated with the feature; [[and]]

updating the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active, and

invoking an executable application associated with the feature when the feature is active, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

64. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

store a status indicator for each of at least one feature associated with room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home ~~one of a plurality of an interactive television system user's surrounding locations~~, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

display setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

accept user input including a selection of the setup indicia associated with the feature; [[and]]

update the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active, and

invoke an executable application associated with the feature when the feature is active, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room.

65. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing a status indicator for each of at least one feature associated with room identifiers, each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home one of a plurality of the user's surrounding locations, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

communicatively coupled to the storage means, means for displaying setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive;

communicatively coupled to the display means, means for selecting the setup indicia associated with the feature; [[and]]

communicatively coupled to the selection means, means for updating the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active; and

invoking an executable application associated with the feature when the feature is active, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system without occurring within the corresponding physical room.

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